

8132 R
101

London

LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE, 5th. June, 1794.



RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

1st. **T**HAT *The London Corresponding Society* was instituted solely for the purpose of obtaining **UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE**, and **ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS**; and has never asserted any Principles which had not this for their basis, nor adopted any measures which have not been openly and publicly avowed.

2dly. That fully convinced of the Legality of its Proceedings, and firm in its Principles, it feels no Inclination, at the present *crisis*, to retract any of its former Assertions, nor depart from its original Purpose.

3dly. That to wish for a Parliamentary Reform is neither *illegal*, *seditionous*, nor *treasonable*.

4thly. That the peaceful assembling of Men in a *Meeting* or *Convention*, to deliberate upon Public Measures, and seek Redress of Grievances, is not YET declared by Law, to be illegal, seditionous, or treasonable.

5thly. That these two Circumstances, taken apart, being innocent, their Combination cannot infer Guilt; since the union of two proper and virtuous Actions can never produce either an Impropriety, or a Crime: and that, therefore, to wish for a Parliamentary Reform, and to assemble peaceably, are in themselves *legal*; so to meet in a Convention, and there wish for a Parliamentary Reform, must be perfectly and strictly legal.

6thly. If the foregoing Propositions be just, it follows that the *Imprisonment* of any *Individual*, ought not to affect the existence, or the continuation of this Society; since, as its object is legal, and its means honest, its best security, while law is practised

tised, and Trial by Jury yet remains, is to resign itself peaceably to the decision of its Country, convinced, that by such a conduct the ultimate event must be to this Society, a **PILLAR OF GLORY**, to its Enemies, a *Monument of Shame*.

7thly. That it is not only the Right, but the Duty of every individual in possession of his Reason, to improve his faculties by investigation, and exercise his judgment on every subject, wherein he is essentially concerned; and that he who contributes to the support of that Form of Government, under which he consents to live, ought to be well instructed in the precise nature of its privileges and obligations.

8thly. That to deprive Men of the *exercise* and enjoyment of their *Faculties*, is to take away the very Foundation upon which all Government stands; for that which appeals not to *Reason*, but to *Force*; which seeks not to convince the *Judgment*, but coerce the *Will*, is not Government, but **TYRANNY** and **OPPRESSION**; or if a Government is one fitted, not for **MEN**, but for **BRUTES**!

9thly. That the apprehension and imprisonment of many of its most valuable and useful Members, though in so much as it concerns themselves individually, it affords considerable regret; to the Society in particular, and to the Public in general, ought rather to be a matter of satisfaction, since while it proves that the enemies to *Peace* and *Reform*, have no other weapons to oppose to them than those of *Violence* and *Prosecution*, it will tend, should administration venture to bring them to an impartial Trial, to promote effectually the cause in which this Society has embarked, and clear it from ill-founded and undeserved imputations!

10thly. That, therefore, so far from shrinking from observation, or courting obscurity, the Members of this Society pledge themselves to maintain the same uniform conduct which has ever distinguished them, and are ready to answer singly, at the *Bar of Justice*, to any charge legally brought against them, whenever it shall please their country to call upon them for their vindication; at the same time solemnly declaring, that they will sooner yield their **LIVES** than desert their **PRINCIPLES**!